

Josephine County Crime Briefs:

by Sam Marsh, KLDR 104.5 FM / KAJO 1270 AM / 99.7 FM

A preliminary investigation into a fire that damaged a home in Selma May 4 has so far failed to identify the cause. On Sunday evening, the Illinois Valley Fire District responded to a house fire on Norman Road. The fire was reported by neighbors as the occupants left the scene safely prior to firefighters' arrival. Upon arrival, firefighters found the back of the house with flames reaching up over the roof. The wind out of the north made it very difficult to fight the fire. Crews called in backup units from Rural Metro Fire Department and Grants Pass Fire & Rescue. American Medical Response had a unit on standby in the event of any firefighter injuries. IVFD Rehab and CERT units also provided assistance. At this time, an investigation by the Oregon State Police Fire Investigation Unit and the IVFD Fire Marshal states the cause of the fire is "undetermined."

A Cave Junction man was arrested for felony impaired driving over the weekend after a complaint was called in by the Illinois Valley Fire District. The Oregon State Police reports firefighters had stopped a Cadillac driven by 72-year-old Kenneth Stephen Cryer near milepost 33 of Redwood Highway May 4 around 9:30 p.m.. They said he was heavily-intoxicated. Troopers arrived on scene and made contact with Cryer where they observed numerous signs of impairment. He was subsequently arrested for felony driving under the influence of intoxicants. Kenneth Cryer was transported to Grants Pass and lodged at the Sobering Center. His vehicle was impounded and towed to Cave Junction.

A Grants Pass man was arrested May 2 for brandishing a machete and causing public alarm in the downtown area. The Public Safety Department reports officers responded to the disturbance involving 60-year-old Donald Keith Priddy in near the Josephine County Transit bus stop on NW sixth Street Thursday shortly after 2 p.m. A Transit employee had called 911 to report a male subject swinging a machete around as part of a fight involving transients at the bus stop near the Courthouse and Anne G. Basker Auditorium. Police arrived quickly and stopped the fight. Fortunately, no one was injured. The machete was seized from Priddy who was lodged in the Josephine County Jail for second-degree disorderly conduct.

A Cave Junction woman and her infant child escaped injury May 2 when she crashed her vehicle on Redwood Highway near Kerby. The Oregon State Police reports troopers, the Illinois Valley Fire District and American Medical Response were dispatched to the single-vehicle wreck near milepost 24 of US Highway 199 Thursday around 6:50 p.m. Troopers said 25-year-old Hailee Marie Parker was driving a Toyota Tacoma south on the highway when she lost control of the pickup and it rolled. She and an infant female child were not injured. The cause of the accident was under investigation by OSP. The wrecked pickup was towed to Cave Junction.

Authorities believe an illegal open burn is responsible for a one-acre grass fire that broke out yesterday in the Illinois Valley. On May 2 at 2:59 p.m., the Illinois Valley

Fire District was dispatched to a grass fire in the 4700-block of Reeves Creek Road. Firefighters responded with three grass fire engines and two water tenders. IVFD officials said the fire was reported by a person passing by the address who saw the smoke. They said the Fire Marshal determined the fire was caused by an illegal open burn trash pile. IVFD was assisted by the Oregon Department of Forestry and Rural Metro Fire Department, which moved an engine up to cover the valley from Station One in Cave Junction. The IVFD Rehab Unit and Citizen Emergency Response Team also provided assistance.

A female motorist was critically injured yesterday when her vehicle crashed into a tree just off Redwood Highway in the Selma area. On May 2 at 1:49 p.m., the Illinois Valley Fire District and American Medical Response were dispatched to the single-vehicle crash on US Highway 199 at Wild Park Lane. IVFD officials said the vehicle left the roadway and struck a tree. The driver was the only occupant and needed to be extricated from the wreckage. She was taken by AMR Ambulance to Station Two in Selma and then airlifted by Mercy Flights helicopter to a Medford hospital where she was listed in critical condition. IVFD and AMR were assisted at the scene by the Josephine County Sheriff's Office and Illinois Valley Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT). The cause of the crash was under investigation by the Oregon State Police. OSP has since identified the driver as 75-year-old Susan Elizabeth Cofoed and said she was driving a Chevrolet Malibu at the time of the crash.

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